

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/699,681

Examiner

Yon Couso

Applicant(s)

COTE, PIERRE

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/2/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art failed to teach or suggest a method and a computer readable medium, comprising forming a morphological image using a database of pictorial entities, and creating element codes corresponding to said morphological image, each of the element codes based on a symbol representative of a facial feature, the symbol having one of a plurality of values indicative of variations of the facial feature, and a first code factor having a value that equals or exceeds a maximum value of the plurality of values indicative of the variations of the facial feature, wherein the element codes are combined to form a facial code representing the morphological image.

Prior art also fails to teach or suggest a computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of sequences of instructions, the plurality of sequences of instructions including sequences of instruction which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps of receiving a predetermined selection of either an element from image information or a spatial relationship from qualifier information, obtaining link information corresponding to a selected element or spatial relationship, wherein the link information includes a user's selection as an attribute of the link information, displaying elements linked with a selected spatial relationship in sequence according to the user's selection using the link information, if an element is selected for browsing, and displaying spatial relationship which describe elements linked with a selected spatial relationship in sequence according to the user's selection using the link information, if a spatial relationship is selected, wherein the displaying

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element and displaying spatial relationship includes creating and displaying element codes.

Prior art also fails to teach a method for encoding a digital representation of a face, comprising multiplying a facial code by a first code factor corresponding to a pictorial entity representing a facial feature, the first code factor having a value that equals or exceeds a maximum value of a plurality of values indicative of variations of the facial feature, adding a value of a symbol corresponding to the pictorial entity to the facial code, repeating the above steps for one or more additional pictorial entities, each corresponding to a different facial feature, combining results of the above steps to form a facial code that corresponds to the digital representation of the face, and storing the facial code in a database for subsequent retrieval.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Claims 1-24 are allowed.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yon Couso whose telephone number is (571) 272-7448. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 5:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jingge Wu, can be reached on (571) 272-7429. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

YJC

June 26, 2006



YON J. COUSO
PRIMARY EXAMINER